

# How did slaves resist their enslavement?

A common question asked by students when they learn by enslaved people is, "Why didn't the slaves just rise up if there were more of them than the masters?" The answer is slaves did rise up and rebel. In fact, many slave rebellions were not even reported or recorded in history because they were the most feared event in the American South, and hiding their existence was one defence against them. Slaves resisted their enslavement in many different other ways. Asserting their humanity in the face of a system that sought to dehumanize them, was perhaps their greatest form of resistance.

This assignment tasks your small group with learning about one of the ways slaves resisted and then teaching about. Read the instructions below to complete this assignment.

## Part 1: Choose a topic

### → Slave families

- ◆ What did slave families look like?
- ◆ What challenges did slaves face when forming families?
- ◆ How was forming a family a form of resistance to slavery?
- ◆ What were the consequences of forming a family?

### → Sabotage and slowdowns

- ◆ In what ways would slaves sabotage their work?
- ◆ What was the effect of "slowdowns"?
- ◆ What were slaves' motivation for sabotaging and slowing down their work?
- ◆ What were the consequences of these actions?

### → Religion and Education

- ◆ What role did Christianity and slave churches play in the life of a slave?
- ◆ How did slave owners try to use Christianity to keep slaves down?
- ◆ What about Christianity appealed to slaves?
- ◆ Why was learning to read and write forbidden for a slave? What were the punishments?
- ◆ Why did many slaves learn to read and write anyway?

### → Slave revolts

- ◆ What was a slave revolt?
- ◆ Who were generally the leaders of slave revolts?
- ◆ What challenges did slave revolts face?
- ◆ What were some famous slave revolts in the American South?
- ◆ What were the consequences of slave revolts?

## Part 2: Research

Begin with a plan by completing making a few copies of [this search plan sheet](#) to make sure you find the information you need.

After planning your search, get out there and find the information you need to answer to teach about your topic. Take good notes. I recommend creating a Doc in Drive where your group can collaborate and combine your research.

## Part 3: Create and Teach

After researching your topic, make a short **3-5 minute video** that teaches your topic. You can do this using one of the methods below:

- ★ **WeVideo** - mostly free video making tool, login with your Google account
- ★ **PowToon** - another free video creation tool that allows you to easily add text and animation
- ★ **Screencastify** - make a Google Slides presentation and then use Screencastify to record your group teaching the topic
- ★ **Other** - if there is another tool you would like to use, let me know and you can do that too

## Part 4: Turn it in

When your video is finished, past the URL below in red or attach your video file to the assignment in Classroom and then turn it in.

Congratulations! You're done.